

YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

Summer 2009 • VOL 4 • NO 2



Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118
502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com
www.metro-parks.org
forest@louisvilleky.gov
parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Monday-Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday/Holidays
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Welcome Center
is your destination
for maps, gift items,
program reservations,
camping reservations,
permits and
Forest Information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)
west and exit at New Cut Road.
Turn left, go about one mile,
and turn right onto
Mitchell Hill Road.
Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of
Louisville Metro Parks
is to create
a City of Parks
and enhance the
quality of life for
citizens of Louisville Metro
by maintaining and acquiring
attractive, vibrant parks
and offering safe, diverse
recreation programs and
protecting these lands
and resources for
future generations.

A FOREST INVENTORY!!

On these pages we regularly report on our efforts to combat the multitude of exotic invasive plant species that are moving increasingly into the Forest and which represent the single greatest threat to forest health (see page 2 inside). Over the recent past we have taken modest steps to address this serious issue. Although we believe we are moving in the right direction we are not, in all honesty, meeting this threat sufficiently. Unfortunately, if left unchecked the populations of invasive plants within the Forest will continue to expand and the value of the Forest as a nature preserve, indeed the largest in Jefferson County, will be significantly diminished.

We do not wish to sit idly and allow this preventable situation to continue or to worsen. Part of the solution is to fully document the extent of the problem and to communicate this to the community. Up until now, we have only reported the problem in general terms based upon the observations of staff, volunteers, and concerned citizens. And it is difficult to generate an appropriate response based upon general observations.

Fortunately, we are not sitting idly by. We are happy to report that beginning in July 2008 and extending through the Fall, researchers from the University of Kentucky School of Forestry will be establishing and surveying 260 permanent study plots across the entire Jefferson Memorial Forest. Their primary purpose is to develop a "proximity" model that will allow researchers and managers to predict the presence of invasive plants based upon the presence of roads, residences, etc... In each of the plots, the researchers will be measuring and recording the mature tree species present in the canopy and documenting the presence and extent of invasive plants within these plots. In addition, they will be recording the presence of invasive plants along the corridors between these study plots.

For us, the result will be the first basic inventory of the composition of the entire Jefferson Memorial Forest and detailed data on the extent of the exotic plant infestation. This data will be invaluable as it will allow us to tell the story of the Forest in a way we've not been able to in the past. This will allow us to develop management actions based upon real data and to inform policy makers about the actual extent of management issues facing the Forest. It



will allow us to study the impact of the imminent arrival of the emerald ash borer on the Forest's ash tree populations. And furthermore, it will open up a realm of possibilities for future research.

So we hope you will join us in thanking the University of Kentucky, particularly Dr. Songlin Fey and his primary researcher, Michael Shouse for their invaluable contribution to the future of the Forest.

Bennett Knox, Parks Administrator

LAND MANAGEMENT NOTES ♦ JUNE 2009

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we've identified our "Dirty Baker's Dozen Plus One," 14 of the most threatening noxious exotic invasive plants. But sometimes we have to stray from the list and focus on the localized invasion of a species not commonly known as invasive but having invasive tendencies. Hopefully because of its relatively small coverage, we can contain the spread. This culprit lurking in the Tom Wallace section of the Forest is Five-Leaf-Aralia.



Five-leaf-Aralia, *Eleutherococcus pentaphyllus* (syn. *Acanthopanax sieboldianus*), is a member of the Araliaceae or Ginseng Family. Native to East Asia, China and Japan, it was introduced as an ornamental in 1859. Most likely it was planted in the park, where it is growing below the Tom Wallace Lake dam in association with other non-natives like Arbor-vitae, Norway Spruce, Taxus and Deutzia. Five-Leaf-Aralia is a medium deciduous shrub with long arching branches. The plant can spread as quickly as its branches touch the ground to form roots, and the roots themselves "sucker" and form new stems. There are two very sharp spines at the nodes, which makes handling difficult. The bright green petioles have leaves arranged alternately on the stem, are palmately compound with 5-7 leaflets 1-2.5 inches long. Fall color is a pale yellow and not particularly showy. Flowers are not conspicuous, greenish white in color, and yield umbels of 1/4-inch black 2-5 seeded berries.

Michael Dirr states in his Manual of Trees and Shrubs that Five-Leaf-Aralia is "one of the toughest nearly indestructible"

Continued on back page

NATURAL AREAS News

REDWING ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, INC. SUPPORTS NATURAL AREAS

Redwing Ecological Services, Inc. is a Louisville based ecological services firm that performs ecological and aquatic assessments, and terrestrial and stream restoration. They also offer assistance to firms in meeting federal, state and local regulations dealing with natural habitats. Metro Parks would like to thank Redwing for their generous contribution of \$1,000



in support of the Metro Parks Natural Areas

Program. This funding is being used to support a seasonal employee who is engaged in our effort to eradicate invasive plants at a number of our main restoration project sites.

E-CORPS WORK CREWS AT THE FOREST AND WAVERLY PARK

The Natural Areas Division is thrilled to continue its wonderful partnership with YouthBuild Louisville's E-corps program. Starting in late June two individual E-corps crews will be assisting with land management and trail-related projects at the Forest and other areas such as Waverly Park. Each of the crews consists of between 6 and 8 young adults who gain job skills through their efforts while helping Metro Parks improve our trails and restore habitat through plantings and invasive species eradication.

WAVERLY PARK AND SHANNON'S POND RESTORATION UPDATE

Recently, staff and volunteers (as well as E-corps participants) planted over 900 wetland plants at Shannon's Pond in the Forest and at the new silt basins at Waverly Park. These water-loving plants, mainly sedges and bulrushes, will improve the aquatic habitats, filter out pollutants, and reduce silt buildup. The

plantings at Shannon's pond will serve a double purpose for our aquatic educational programs.

INVASIVES PLANT ERADICATION AT WAVERLY PARK

Speaking of Waverly Park, did you know that Waverly Park boasts the only concentration of kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) that we know of in our park system? Land Management staff has been diligently working on this very tough vine which one can almost watch grow. For the past three years, targeting sprayings of herbicide specific to kudzu are bringing this population under control and moving us towards total eradication. In addition, the war against bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) continues. We are making progress.

Volunteers at Shannon's Pond



A damselfly at the pond

VOLUNTEERING BY THE NUMBERS

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If you're wondering if the time you have to offer can really make a difference, check out the numbers below:

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS BY TYPE:

Forest Ambassadors.....6
Land Stewards.....12
Program Naturalists26
Trail Crew members.....31

Hours of service performed by 929
recurrent volunteers Jan-Mar 2009

Value of volunteer service \$18,828*
hours, Jan-Mar 2009

Hours of service performed by 3,549
thses volunteers Jan-Dec 2008

Value of volunteer service \$71,875*
hours, Jan-Dec 2008

* The value of a volunteer hour estimated by Independent Sector Research, at \$20.25; see www.independentresearch.org.

The value of the time our volunteers give helps us even more! The monetary value is used as matching funds towards the many grants we seek to fund improvements and programs for the Forest.

Every person willing to lend a hand, and every hour donated, makes our world a little better.

Be the Change! Volunteer!



SUMMER VOLUNTEER NEWS

BUSY, BUSY VOLUNTEERS!

The Forest is blessed with an outstanding crew of dedicated volunteers. Without their generous gift of time and contagious enthusiasm, the Forest staff would be a sad and overworked lot, to say the least. The gifts these valued volunteers bring to the Forest are numerous and varied, and they make the Forest a better place to play and work with their presence.

If you'd like to join this amazing group of people and share a like-minded love of natural areas, just give us a call! You're sure to find something to suit your tastes among the opportunities listed below:

LAND STEWARD PROJECT DAYS

Anyone interested in improving the landscape and protecting native flora are welcome to participate. On-going volunteers are encouraged, but single-day helpers are always welcome! Gloves, tools, water and on-the-job training are provided. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. You may want to bring a lunch.

Project time is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but volunteers may work any amount of time. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Forest Welcome Center, 11311 Mitchell Hill Road, on the first Saturday, second Wednesday, and fourth Thursday of each month – attend one or all!

TRAIL PROJECT DAYS

Anyone interested in improving the trails in JMF/ Natural Areas, doing trail patrol and/or reconnaissance are invited to join us during one of the upcoming project days. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. You may want to bring a lunch. Gloves, tools, water and on-the-job training will be provided. Project time is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but volunteers may work any amount of time.

FOREST WELCOME CENTER HIKE TRAIL

2nd Saturday of each month

We're working on a brand new trail sponsored by a grant from Nature Valley. This new trail will connect the three sections of the Forest for the first time! Come be a part of developing this historic trail! Meet at the Welcome Center 9 a.m. on each of the workdays.

WAVERLY PARK PROJECT DAYS

Third Saturday of each month

Multi-use/mountain bike trail. We will meet near the lake at 9 a.m. on each of the workdays. Waverly Park is located on Arnoldtown Rd. and Clayton Terrace.

PAUL YOST PROJECT DAYS

Fourth Saturday of each month

Multi-use/equestrian trail. We will meet at the Duncan Shelter at 9 a.m. on each of the workdays. Paul Yost is located at 11405 Holsclaw Hill Rd.

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Anyone interested in leading hikes, teaching classes and interpreting to the public will enjoy this opportunity. Attend weekly training classes beginning in January and culminate with an April graduation, earning the title of Volunteer Naturalist. New volunteers are accepted throughout the year, and serve as apprentices until classes commence again.

FOREST AMBASSADORS

Members of this group of general volunteers are truly our Jacks (and Jills)-of-all-trades. Helping with numerous duties for our annual Forest Fest, staffing information booths at community festivals, staffing children's activities/crafts areas during special events and helping in the administrative office, these volunteers work a less structured schedule, but are just as vital to our existence.

Tell us what your specialty is, and we'll do our best to find a great place to put those talents to work!

For more information on volunteering, please contact Sherry L. Wright, Volunteer Coordinator, at sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov, by phone at 502/380-1753 or cell at 502/442-5767.

FOREST FEST RECAP

Another year and another awesome Forest Fest! Despite dire forecasts for rain, the sun shone and the crowds came out. Buck Creek started the day off right, and Stone Hollow and Hog Operation carried it on through. Tony Holt and the Wildwood Valley Boys showed us how they do it in Indiana. Cherryholmes sent the crowd over the moon with their electrifying performance. Those that were deterred by the weather forecast surely missed out on the best Forest Fest yet! We are already planning for next year and taking band suggestions, so if you have a favorite bluegrass band let us know at forest@louisvilleky.gov.

If you have a craft or Kentucky Proud product for sale, send us your information and we will send you a crafter/vendors packet in January 2010. Great sponsorship opportunities are still open for Forest Fest 2010! Please contact Tonya Swan at 502/368-6856.

This event is made possible by the incredible generosity of our Metro Councilmembers and community sponsors. Please remember to thank them the next time you see them or visit their establishment.

Our presenting sponsor:

Councilwoman Vicki Welch, District 13

And Councilpersons:

Rick Blackwell, District 12

Madonna Flood, District 24

Bob Henderson, District 14

Marianne Butler, District 15

Brent Ackerson, District 26

James Peden, District 23

Judith Green, District 1

Mary C. Wooldridge, District 3

Dan Johnson, District 21

Tina Ward-Pugh, District 9

Jon Ackerson, District 18

Bluegrass Benefactors:

Fairdale-McDaniel Funeral Home

Fairdale Dairy Queen

Fairdale Pic Pac,

The Neighborhood Fresh Market

Friend of Forest Fest:

Graphic Corporation

Forest Fest Fans:

The Café

First Quality Music

Fairdale Feed and Hardware

Other supporters:

Baird's Auto Parts

Linda Duncan (School Board, District 5)

Auburndale Animal Clinic

Adam's Tree Service

United Graphics



VOLUNTEERS

BEARGRASS CREEK GREENWAY IS LOOKING GOOD!

If you haven't visited the Beargrass Creek Greenway lately – at the corner of Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive – make a point to take another look! A recent volunteer clean up event has the area looking wonderful.

On Saturday, May 30, 2009, Metro Parks Natural Areas hosted a clean up event at the Beargrass Creek Greenway in conjunction with the X-Stream Cleanup sponsored by Living Lands and Waters and MSD. The Louisville X-Stream Cleanup is an annual event aimed at removing and reducing trash and pollutants from the Ohio River and its tributaries, especially Beargrass Creek.

Blessed with gorgeous weather and over 50 volunteers working in teams, the group removed storm debris, trash and invasive plants and planted assorted wetland plant varieties provided by Redwing.

Native wetland plants aid the filtration of pollutants, cleaning rain water runoff from the adjacent streets before it reaches the creek, improving water quality, flora diversity and healthier native habitat for insects, amphibians and reptiles.

Natural Areas extends our thanks to all who participated in this project: concerned citizens who showed up ready to work, Living Lands and Waters, MSD, Male High School students, Redwing and Drop Seed Nursery. Working together, we made a huge difference!



*Two SUV-loads of wetland plants.
Thanks Redwing!!*



*Male High School students learn how
wetland plants filter pollutants and
improve water quality.*



*Lots of trash, invasive plants and one
old tire! Well Done, Volunteers!*



Clearing trash and invasive plants

PUBLIC PROGRAM CALENDAR: JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at www.memorialforest.com or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel programs due to insufficient registration or inclement weather. Rain checks will be provided.

PRESCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

Programs for parents and children ages 3 to 5. Includes storytime, crafts, snacks and outside exploration time. Program meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$9 per child

TOTALLY TURTLES

Sat, August 8, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Tue, August 12, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Can turtles leave their shells behind? Are they the slowest animals in the forest? Discover the answers as you meet a variety of turtles up close!

SSSSNAKES

Tue, September 8, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Sat, September 12, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

With pictures and activities, children will learn all about snakes. This program is for parents and children ages 3-5. Includes story-time, craft, snack and active exploration time outside.

A SQUIRREL'S STASH

Tue, October 13, 9:30 a.m.-Noon

This program is for parents and children 3-5. Includes storytime, crafts, snacks, and active exploration time outside. Program meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$9 per child

FAMILY FOREST EXPLORERS: PART OF THE CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK 9:30-11:30 a.m.

This series of classes is meant to intrigue the young and old alike. Participation is tracked and points earned for each session. A prize will be given at the end of the series to the family with the highest score. Visit www.childrenandnature.org.

Fee: \$10 per family (limit 4) \$5 for each additional person

MUD PIES AND BUGS TOO!

Sat, August 15

Come out for messy fun as your family competes to make the best mud pie ever! While creating your masterpiece, learn where dirt comes from and what little creatures make it, eat it and live in it!

ACA INTRO TO CANOEING COURSE

Monday, August 10, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sat, August 22, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Learn the basics on equipment, paddling strokes, and rescues. Dress to get wet, and you may bring a sack lunch. Meet at the Welcome Center. Program subject to change due to water and weather conditions. Ages 12 and up; children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Course is limited to 12. Fee: \$25; includes brochures, posters, participation card, outline and ACA decal.

EVENING PROGRAM: CANOEING AT TWILIGHT

Fri, August 14, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Experience the tranquility of 46-acre McNeely Lake by the light of the moon, and watch as lake wildlife begins evening foraging. Meet at the Welcome Center. For ages 7 and up; children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. There is space for 18 participants with a maximum of 12 adults. Space won't be available for individuals coming on the day of the program. Fee: \$15 per person

EVENING ALPINE TOWER CLIMB

Fri, August 28, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Climbing our tower at night is a different and unique experience. With over a hundred different ways to get to the top, this is a great program for beginners as

well as advanced climbers. Meet in the Horine Reservation. For ages 10 and up; children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Bring a headlamp if you want. Wear tennis shoes and pants or shorts with inseam of at least 5 inches. Space is limited to 18 participants. Fee: \$10 per person

OUTDOOR SKILLS: CANOEING AND BIRDING

Sat, September 12, 9 a.m.-Noon

Enjoy the birds and find out various skills as we journey down Floyds Fork. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

HOWL AT THE MOON

Fri, September 18, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Forest staff will lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required.

CHILDREN IN NATURE ADVENTURE: TREES, LEAVES, AND BARK

Sat, September 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Discover the wonders of the Forest Landscape and examine the trees, leaves, and barks of the forest. For ages 3 and up

FAMILY FISHING

Sat, September 26, 9 a.m.-Noon

Participants will learn about the forest environment along with fishing safety. A great activity for adults and children ages 8 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment is provided.

LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL AND NATURAL AREAS RECEIVE AWARD!

On April 26, 2009, Louisville Male High School received the Steering the Future of Beargrass Creek Award for their work with Natural Areas education staff on improving the entrance to the Beargrass Creek Greenway. This is the first year this award has been given.

The project began when the Natural Areas Region of Metro Parks received funding from MSD to create an educational program that was tied to the ecological improvement of this section of Beargrass Creek, near Lexington Road and Grinstead Avenue. Natural Areas staff, led by Tonya Swan, supervisor of education, developed a program that combined field testing and research, culminating in a presentation to Metro Parks and MSD staff.

The purpose of this program was to teach the students field testing, data collection methods, and how to use data and additional research to create a plan for the restoration of the area. First, students needed to recognize invasive species and create a plan for their removal. They were then asked to create a plan and a plant list of native species that would be both low maintenance and able to thrive in the area with the existing shade, moisture and soil conditions. All of this created an opportunity for the students to engage in a "real world" project with real feedback from professionals in the field.

The second part of their study was the actual implementation of their selected plan – removing the invasive species, augmenting the soil and planting their selected native plants.

This project began in 2007. We hope to continue this program for many years to come. The impact is evident in the words students shared with the audience at the Awards Ceremony at the Louisville Zoo:

"There have been many times I threw trash out of my car window, on the ground, and never thought about recycling. Before entering my senior year and taking the AP Environmental Science [APES] class, I did not know how badly I was hurting the environment, others, and myself. Throughout this school year I have learned more and more about my environment and now understand my mistakes. This class transformed me into a new person.

"I never would have considered restoring anything that had to do with the environment. I could have cared less. A year ago, I would never have donated my time to help clean up the parks, neighborhoods, and Beargrass Creek. I would not have turned into the recycler I am today. I loved this class despite all of the hard work that Mrs. Page gives.

"This year I have had the opportunity to restore, plant, water test, soil test, and learn about Beargrass Creek. I have been a part of an infamous battle against invasive species and removing them. I am proud to say that this class has made a big impact on my life, and as my last days at Male approach, I realize I am going to miss every one of these challenges. I will cherish all of the moments we had at our site, even the scratches and getting smacked in the face by tree branches in the battle to remove invasive plant species.

Though my last days in the class are coming to an end, my fight for the environment has just begun. I will continue with the same motivation that APES has given me, which is to stay committed to our adopted site on Beargrass Creek. On behalf of APES and me, we would like to thank you for our award, because even though our work has not been in vain, the award shows us that our hard work did not go unnoticed."

*Monique Bachelor, Senior, Advanced Placement Environmental Science,
Louisville Male High School*

ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.

CHILDREN IN NATURE

Spring has sprung and summers begun...

Butterflies usually attract a child's attention as they flutter by and land on a flower for a quick meal. By planting the right flowers you can attract many butterflies to your yard to enjoy with your children or grandchildren. You do not need a lot of space, just the right conditions: good soil, sunlight, water, mulch and the right plants. Variety is the key to attracting the most butterflies. Make sure you have host plants that caterpillars can feed on. You will be able to witness the exciting change from caterpillar to pupa to adult. One of many wonderful books to read with your child is *My, Oh My - A Butterfly!*: *All About Butterflies* (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library).

Below is a list of plants for your butterfly garden.

Asters
Bee balm
Black-eyed-Susan
Butterfly weed
Common milkweed
Dill
Goldenrod
Ironweed
Parsley
Purple coneflower
Sunflowers
Swamp milkweed



Resources to plan your garden. Book:
Gardening for the Birds, Thomas G. Barnes.

Websites:

www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/butterflypages/;
www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef006.asp;
bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/gardening.html;
www.shootingstarnursery.com
www.dropseednursery.org.

Jefferson Memorial Forest
11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY 40118

tel • 502/368-5404
email • forests@louvilleky.gov
web • www.memorialforest.com

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Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

Land Management, continued from page 2

plants. Five-Leaf-Aralia is very adaptable to many unfavorable conditions. It tolerates heavy shade to bright sun, air pollution, alkaline soils, heavy soils, sandy soils, dry or poor soils and even rocky rubble. As our stalwart volunteers will attest, it is a rampant grower, growing so thickly that virtually nothing will grow beneath. Five-Leaf-Aralia will quickly smother anything in its path.

Our Land Stewards team has made remarkable progress in an attempt to control this beast. The management strategy is to contain the existing population and prevent its spread while chipping away at eradication. Unfortunately, Five-Leaf-Aralia and its variegated cultivar are still available for purchase at many nurseries. Not much is in the literature regarding the invasiveness of this plant. In fact, an e-mail to the National Invasive Species Information Center yielded only two sources.

On June 25 a group of 13 volunteers from First Presbyterian of Concord, NC spent the morning cheerfully helping us eradicate that invasive monster. That stalwart group literally annihilated more than 90% of the existing stand. Thanks guys and gals for a job well done, and thanks for your smiles and laughter in the face of heat, bugs and thorns!

Carl Suk, Land Manager



Volunteers at Shannon's Pond



Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org
Forest/Parks Natural Areas Staff

Bennett Knox
Parks Administrator

Brian Lewis
Infrastructure Manager

Toriya Swan
Public Education Manager

Carl Suk
Land Manager

Larry Hilton
Naturalist/Trails Supervisor

Vicki Howser
Welcome Center

Kathryn Lynn
Naturalist/Programs Reservationist

Shawn Norris
Naturalist/Programs

Jerry Waddell
Maintenance Supervisor

Christa Waldner
Naturalist/Programs

Sherry Wright
Volunteer Coordinator